

SULTAN HEARS STORY OF DARDANELLES FIGHT

Two American Newspaper Men Received in Audience by Turkey's Ruler.

MANIFESTS GREAT INTEREST

Conversation Drifts From One Phase of Bombardment to Other, and His Majesty Expresses Pleasure at Recital of Events by Neutrals.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 29.—Inter-fer, but it can be done, as was demon- strated by the correspondent of the Associated Press, who on April 6 was received by His Majesty Mohammed V., and cabled to America the view of that ruler on this war and other sub- jects of vital interest to his country. The success of this attempt to obtain at first hand the Sultan's view was mainly due to the fact that the Asso- ciated Press correspondent had wit- nessed the bombardment of the Darda- nelles coast fortifications, and that His Majesty wanted to hear the story of the bombardment from a neutral, feeling, perhaps, that his entourage had somewhat overdrawn the account of the Turkish victory. He also wanted to get an outsider's opinion of the Ottoman forces guarding the strait that leads to his capital, and last but not least, and this may in some parts be looked upon as unusual for Turkey, His Majesty was interested in the lot of the people who had been driven from their homes during the bombardment.

Mohammed V. is a kindly soul—an old man in whom the fullness of years and the tribulations of life have pro- duced a pleasing mellowness of spirit. Two other newspapermen were per- mitted to see the Sultan. One of them was Raymond of the Chicago Daily News, who, together with the Associated Press correspondent, had gone through the bombardment of March 18, and the other was Dr. Emil Ludwig, correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt, who had also been at the Dardanelles, but had left several days before the bombardment.

The cabled interview, however, did not cover the way in which the cor- respondents were themselves inter- viewed, not only by the Sultan, but by his first aide-de-camp, Brigadier-Gen- eral H. Salih Pasha, who received the party and conducted them to His Majesty.

"I know it is almost impossible to believe that the shells of the allies did not work greater havoc," said Salih Pasha, when a review of conditions in the Dardanelles forts had been given by the Associated Press correspondent awaiting presentation. "No doubt, our enemies will say that they did more than they have done. I am glad that in this instance the world does not have to merely take our word for it."

Salih Pasha was very sorry that a certain lieutenant, who on many occa- sions had distinguished himself by his bravery, had been killed. The old sol- dier regretted that the officer had died in the manner in which he did—sufo- cation under a small hail of earth which he had thrown over him. "Poor Hassan," he said, "but some of us have to go that road, of course."

CONVERSATION ENTIRELY ABOUT BOMBARDMENT

Conversation drifted from one phase of the bombardment to another. Salih Pasha showed the greatest interest. "His Majesty is keenly interested in what you saw," he said. "I wish you would tell him all you know. But you must speak rather loudly, because my ears are not as good as they used to be—getting a little old, you know."

Then a court official announced that His Majesty was ready to receive the visitors. Salih Pasha rose and in- timated that single file be formed. The little procession was headed by him, then came the Associated Press cor- respondent, Mr. Ludwig and Dr. Ludwig, walked several court attendants.

On the highly polished parquet floor of the great central hall of the palace lay a carpet runner. Evidently it is etiquette to keep one's feet on this. Salih Pasha followed the runner with an impressive military pre- cision, coming almost to a complete halt, and facing about when a corner was reached. In this manner a second hall was also partly traversed. In this hall the great stairway lies a short corridor. Salih Pasha led the way into this, and a few steps brought the party to a door, which some one inside opened. Another introduction of the visitors followed. This over the man to whom the callers had been pre- sented disappeared through the door of an adjoining room, which he entered for just a moment. When he re- appeared he was saluting deeply to some one in the room.

"Enter in the manner in which you have followed me," said Salih Pasha to the visitors. "I shall enter last."

SULTAN SAYS FEW WORDS OF GREETING IN TURKISH

As the visitors appeared in the door His Majesty arose from the divan where he had been sitting, returned the simple bow that was given, smiled in a most engaging manner, and said a few words of greeting in Turkish. Opposite the divan had been placed three chairs. To these His Majesty pointed with an invitation to the callers to be seated. Before the jour- nalist sat down Mohammed V. shook hands with them in so hearty a fashion that the rattle of cuff buttons could be heard.

Salih Pasha had so far remained near the door. Upon invitation of His Majesty, he approached and then pre- sented the visitors. This was done in Turkish. Nothing more than the word "tasallut"—correspondent—and the name of the organization could be under- stood, however. His Majesty wanted to know how many newspapers were represented in the Associated Press. When told the number, he seemed un- able to believe it, but soon remem- bered, as he told his aide-de-camp, that

the United States was the country of big things, anyway.

"Tell the gentlemen," said His Majes- ty to Salih Pasha, "that I am greatly honored by their visit, and that it af- fords me great pleasure to know that American newspapermen were able to observe the action of March 18. I bid them welcome to Turkey and this city." When the aide-de-camp had translat- ed, the Associated Press correspondent, on behalf of himself and the others, expressed his pleasure of having been granted an interview. To the repeti- tion of this in Turkish His Majesty lis- tened attentively, nodding in apprecia- tion each time part of the response had been translated.

"His Majesty would like to hear from you the story of the operations of the allies against the Dardanelles, more especially what occurred on March 18," said Salih Pasha. "Make the account of it as short and to the point as pos- sible."

For about fifteen minutes the Asso- ciated Press correspondent told a sort of private lecture on the operation of the allies. Now and then His Majesty would put a question. What had been the conduct of his soldiers on the various days? Had the poor soldiers of Tehanak Kale and Kallid Bahr suffered much? What had been the effect of the terrible noise upon the mind of the cor- respondent—had he been afraid? These were some of the things that interested the Sultan very much.

"I am convinced that the Dardanelles cannot be forced," said His Majesty, when the story of the Dardanelles bom- bardment had been told. "The brave conduct of our troops in the recent operations against the strait permit me to conclude that, though the allies bend every effort and employ every means at their disposal, they will be unable to achieve their purpose."

His Majesty then asked Mr. Swing what his impression of the bombard- ment had been. Mr. Swing related how while going through the streets of Tehanak Kale on March 18, he had been most unpleasantly impressed by the detonation of the exploding shells—fifteen-inch shells from the Queen Elizabeth. He had been unable to con- trol his nerves, said Mr. Swing, and each time a shell had exploded he had felt the uncontrollable desire to stoop. An old Turk had seen this and had come beside him to give comfort, accompa- nying gentle pats on the shoulder with the words, "Kismet, kismet!"

PLEASED THAT TURK HAD GIVEN COMFORT

That a Turk had in such an hour of stress found time to comfort another seemed to please His Majesty greatly. To some words to that effect the Sultan added:

"But the man did not apply the proper word, my young friend. We use the word 'kismet' only in relation to the smaller events in life. If you were eating an orange, and it happened to you to use the word 'kader,' that word ex- presses exactly what the old man wanted to convey. It means that our fate is in the hands of a superior force, and that what is to happen will hap- pen, no matter what we ourselves may do. The idea is known among you as fatalism, I believe. It is a very good word, because confidence in the supreme and resignation to our fate mean a great deal in life. Formerly we Turks believed in it altogether. But we have come to realize that a belief in kader alone will not do. We must work."

His Majesty then asked for some ad- ditional details on the sinking of the French ship Bouvet and the British ship Irresistible. That the former had gone down in a small hall of earth which he had thrown over him. "Poor Hassan," he said, "but some of us have to go that road, of course."

"It has been said that there was a strong factor of luck in our victory of March 18, which made it so complete and great," said His Majesty. "But we have a saying in Turkish which runs: 'Luck is infatuated with the efficient.' The translation of what His Majesty said next may have been a little faulty. Either that or irony was intended. It was this: 'His Majesty says that he finds it very unjust that the allies want to force the Dardanelles and take Con- stantinople just to import foodstuffs from Russia.' Then His Majesty con- tinued: 'But our troops have shown their ability and willingness to do their duty. I am speaking here not alone of the Turkish defenders of the Darda- nelles, but also of those Germans who

have so efficiently and bravely co-oper- ated with them."

EXPRESSES ADMIRATION OF GERMAN TROOPS

Dr. Ludwig was then given an op- portunity to ask His Majesty what he thought of the conduct of the German and Austro-Hungarian troops. "I would thank all of you if you would say for me that my admiration for the German troops in the western and eastern theaters of war is so great that it is impossible for me to express in words my high opinion of their valor and efficiency. Concerning their com- mander-in-chief, Emperor William, I can only say that we in Turkey pray that he may enjoy the best health for many years."

His Majesty confirmed that he had been given by the German Emperor the Iron Crosses, first and second classes. "I am proud of having been pre- sented with these medals, which decorate so many brave men," said the Sultan. Turning to the American correspond- ent, His Majesty reiterated that it was a pleasure to him to know that two American newspapermen had wit- nessed the operations against the Darda- nelles. "I value the opinion of neutrals highly," said His Majesty, "and am pleased to learn that you intend to turn to the Dardanelles. I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express my greatest satisfaction that relations between the United States and Turkey are so cordial. A slight movement of the Sultan's left hand indicated that he wished to terminate the audience. The cor- respondents arose, as did His Majesty, who, addressing a few words in Tur- ish to each, took leave of his visitors with another hearty handshake, and a few minutes later they again sipped coffee and smoked cigars with Salih Pasha.

"When you get back to the Darda- nelles greet all my friends," he said, "and give the fifteen-inch shells a wider berth than you did on March 18. We are interested in letting the world know something of the Turkey of to- day, and you wouldn't figure in that if you became too familiar with a chunk of steel of the size that are found about Tehanak Kale."

annual boat race between the rival Harry Lee boat crew and the Albert Sidney boat club four. The board of trustees will meet just before the an- nual regatta, while the joint celebra- tion of the literary societies will hold the interest of the stayovers. From a social viewpoint, Monday will be the first big day, as the P. A. N. and White Friar Ribbon Societies will give their annual morning German and the senior class will wind up its career officially with its senior ball.

A vast number of alumni have pledged their presence at the com- mencement exercises and Tuesday will be given over to them. The Birming- ham alumni, through the medium of the Ring-tum Phi, the Washington and Lee weekly, has succeeded in getting a larger number of alumni than ever to return for the events. At noon there will be a meeting of the Wash- ington and Lee Alumni, Incorporated, while the alumni will meet the variety in a baseball game during the after- noon. The promenade concert, an in- stitution of former years, will be re- stored to favor this year, and will have its revivification on alumni night. A smoker for the alumni will wind up the busy day.

The presentation of degrees and prizes will take place on Wednesday morning, June 16. At this assembly Dr. Charles William Doney, president of the University of Cincinnati, will deliver the commencement address. The college year will come to a con- clusion on Wednesday night, when the final ball, the most pretentious social event of the year, will be given in the gymnasium.

On Sunday, the annual baccalaureate sermon will be delivered in the Lee Memorial chapel by Rev. Floyd W. Tomkins, S. T. D., LL. D., of Phila- delphia. Monday, June 14, will witness the

ROUND OF PLEASURE AT WASHINGTON AND LEE

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] LEXINGTON, VA., May 29.—Indica- tions point to a round of pleasures at the commencement exercises of Wash- ington and Lee University for this year. The series of events which will mark the close of the year, will begin on Saturday, June 11, when the inter- fraternity dance will be given in the gymnasium.

On Sunday, the annual baccalaureate sermon will be delivered in the Lee Memorial chapel by Rev. Floyd W. Tomkins, S. T. D., LL. D., of Phila- delphia. Monday, June 14, will witness the

annual boat race between the rival Harry Lee boat crew and the Albert Sidney boat club four. The board of trustees will meet just before the an- nual regatta, while the joint celebra- tion of the literary societies will hold the interest of the stayovers. From a social viewpoint, Monday will be the first big day, as the P. A. N. and White Friar Ribbon Societies will give their annual morning German and the senior class will wind up its career officially with its senior ball.

SHIPS IN FLEET DAMAGED

Admiral Fletcher Reports Repairs Can Be Made Without Trouble.

WASHINGTON, May 29.—Admiral Fletcher, reporting to-day from New- port, R. I., on the damage to ships of the Atlantic Fleet on Wednesday night, said the battleships Virginia and Ne- braska were slightly damaged when fouled by the colliers Cyclops and Orion, which were coaling the battle- ships when a squall swept over Nar- ragansett Bay. Repairs, the admiral reported, could be made by the ships' force.

The collier Jupiter also fouled the battleship Louisiana without serious damage. The Cyclops's plates were loosened, and there is water in one of her holds, while the Orion is taking a small amount of water.

THINKS GERMANY WILL WIN

U. S. Vice-Consul at Hamburg Says Resources Are Practically Untouched.

NEW YORK, May 29.—"Germany is bound to win," declared John G. Lamont, United States vice-consul at Hamburg, on his arrival here to-day on the Holland-American liner Rot- terdam. Mr. Lamont is on his way to attend the funeral of his father, who died recently at Titusville, Pa. "Germany's resources are practically untouched," he said. "She has plenty of provisions, plenty of copper and plenty of everything else she needs. If necessary, the Germans can put an army of 15,000,000 in the field."

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